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NIT-163-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Accompanying Continuation Application Under
37 CFR 1.53(b):

Prior Application: M. IWAYAMA et al
Serial No. 09/442,147
Filed: November 18, 1999

Group Art: 2171
Examiner: C. Rones
For: A METHOD OF SEARCHING DOCUMENTS AND
A SERVICE FOR SEARCHING DOCUMENTS

JCE68 U.S. PTO
10/075283
02/15/02

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231


February 15, 2002

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure, the Applicants inform the Examiner of the documents cited during prosecution of the parent application, USSN 09/442,147.

The Applicants request the Examiner to initial and return a copy of the attached PTO-1449 form as an indication that the references have been considered.

Respectfully submitted,


Daniel J. Stanger
Registration No. 32,846
Attorney for Applicants

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR, P.C.
1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 370
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1120
Date: February 15, 2002

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| FORM PTO-1449 (REV. 7-80) | | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | | ATTY. DOCKET NO. NIT-163-02 | SERIAL NO. | |
| LIST OF DOCUMENTS CITED BY APPLICANT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> | | | | APPLICANT M. IWAYAMA et al | | |
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| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
| * EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE <i>(If Appropriate)</i> |
| | AA | 5,590,319 | 12/31/96 | Cohen et al | | |
| | AB | 5,987,460 | 11/1999 | Niwa et al | | |
| | AC | 5,926,811 | 07/1999 | Miller et al | | |
| | AD | 5,870,740 | 02/1999 | Miller et al | | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
| | DOCUMENT | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES NO |
| | AL | 64-74210 | 03/20/89 | Japan | | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | AM | 93/37499 | 08/27/98 | WO PCT | | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | AN | 10-74210 | 03/17/98 | Japanese Laid-Open Patent | | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | AO | 11-85786 | 03/30/99 | Japanese Laid-Open Patent | | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | AP | 10-254887 | 09/25/98 | Japanese Laid-Open Patent | | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| OTHER DOCUMENTS <i>(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)</i> | | | | | | |
| | AR | B. Velez et al, "Fast and Effective Query Refinement", Annual International ACM-SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval, US, New York, NY, July 27, 1997, pp. 6-15. | | | | |
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| <small>* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form next communication to applicant.</small> | | | | | | |



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| * EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE <i>(If Appropriate)</i> |
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| | | | | | | | YES | NO |
| | AL | 8-287103 | 11/01/96 | Japanese Laid-Open Patent | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | AM | 9-62693 | 03/07/97 | Japanese Laid-Open Patent | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | AN | | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | AO | | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | AP | | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

OTHER DOCUMENTS *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)*

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